

REMARKS

Claims 1-17, 19-21, and 22-28 were pending prior to this response. Claims 13, 14, 17, 21, 23, 24, and 28 were allowed. Claims 8, 9, 12, 19, 20, and 27 were objected to. The remaining claims were rejected. Claim 8 has been cancelled herein. Claims 1, 19, and 20 have been amended herein.

I. Objection to Claims 19 and 20

Claims 19 and 20 were objected to because they recited dependency on methods rather than apparatuses. They have been amended to correct these errors. In addition, the dependency of claim 20 was incorrect. The dependency has been corrected. Therefore, the objections have been overcome.

II. Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4-7, and 11 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwasaki and Inuiya in view of Smith (U.S. 6,501,518).

Claim 8, which depended on claim 1, was objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Claim 1 has been amended herein to include the elements of claim 8. Thus, claim 1 is now allowable. Claims 2, 4-7, and 11 depend from claim 1 and are deemed allowable by way of their dependence and for other reasons.

Based on the foregoing, the rejections have been overcome and the applicants request allowance of the claims.

III. Double Patenting Rejection of Claims 1-7, 15-16, and 25-26

Claims 1-7, 15-16, and 25-26 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obvious-type double patenting, as being unpatentable over claims 1-7, 10-11, and 18-19 of United States patent 6,865,293. The applicants have submitted a terminal disclaimer, which overcomes the rejections.

It is noted that claim 1 has been amended to include the elements of claim 8. Therefore, the double patenting rejection is moot with regard to claims 1-7.

IV. Objection to Claim 27


Claim 27 was objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. This may be an error because claim 27 is dependent on claim 17, which was allowed. Accordingly, allowance of claim 27 is requested.

In view of the above, all of the pending claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
KLAAS, LAW, O'MEARA & MALKIN, P.C.

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By:


Robert W. Nelson
Reg. No. 37,898
1999 Broadway, Suite 2225
Denver, CO 80202
Tel: (303) 298-9888
Fax: (303) 297-2266